

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 143

Introduced by Assembly Members Cook and Butler

April 17, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 143—Relative to the American flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 143, as introduced, Cook. Relative to the American flag.

This measure would recognize National Flag Day on June 14, 2012, honor the 52nd anniversary of the flying of the current American flag, and encourage all Californians to celebrate the occasion with appropriate activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For more than two centuries, the American flag
2 has been a banner of hope for generation after generation of
3 Americans; and
4 WHEREAS, The flag is a symbol of a country that has grown
5 from 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states; and
6 WHEREAS, Continental Congress member Francis Hopkinson
7 designed the first Stars and Stripes. The first flag of the United
8 States was authorized by Congressional Resolution on June 14,
9 1777, resolving that it be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and
10 white, and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field,
11 representing a new constellation; and
12 WHEREAS, Since the first American flag, several congressional
13 acts and Presidential Executive orders have altered the shape,
14 design, and arrangement of the flag, and allowed for additional

1 stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new
2 state; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1794, Congress passed an act changing the
4 American flag so that it contained 15 stripes and 15 stars; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1818, President Monroe signed legislation
6 requiring that the American flag have 13 stripes and a star for each
7 state in the union. Stars for newly added states would be applied
8 to the flag on July 4 of the following year; and

9 WHEREAS, Flag makers were able to use imaginative designs
10 to accommodate new stars on the flag until 1912, when President
11 Taft issued an Executive order that established rows of stars as the
12 standard design; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 14, 1885, a 19-year-old Wisconsin
14 schoolteacher named Bernard J. Cigrand assigned his students
15 essays on the flag and its significance, in commemoration of the
16 congressional resolution of 1777; and

17 WHEREAS, Cigrand's lifelong effort to bring about national
18 recognition of the day culminated in the issuance of a proclamation
19 by President Wilson on May 30, 1916, calling for a nationwide
20 observance of Flag Day; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1949, President Truman signed an act of
22 Congress designating the 14th day of June every year as National
23 Flag Day; and

24 WHEREAS, The 48-star American flag, represented by the
25 traditional 13 stripes and six rows of eight stars, was the official
26 flag from 1912 until 1959; and

27 WHEREAS, On January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally granted
28 statehood and the 49-star American flag, represented by the
29 traditional 13 stripes and seven rows of seven stars, became the
30 official flag when it was raised over Independence Hall on July 4,
31 1959; and

32 WHEREAS, Hawaii became this country's 50th state on August
33 21, 1959, requiring that a new 50-star flag be designed as the
34 official American flag; and

35 WHEREAS, President Eisenhower unveiled the new 50-star
36 flag on August 21, 1959, at a ceremony commemorating Hawaii's
37 statehood; and

38 WHEREAS, The 50-star flag, the current Stars and Stripes,
39 became the official American flag on July 4, 1960, with a design

1 of 13 stripes and 50 stars, represented by five rows of six stars
2 alternating with four rows of five stars; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite the numerous designs of the American
4 flag, they have all stood for the United States Constitution, the
5 American way of life, our collective past achievements, and our
6 dreams for the future; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2012, National Flag Day, the 50-star
8 American flag celebrates its 52nd anniversary as the official Stars
9 and Stripes, representing the longest period that any fixed flag
10 design has been used; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes National Flag
13 Day on June 14, 2012, honors the 52nd anniversary of the flying
14 of the current American flag, and encourages all Californians to
15 celebrate the occasion with appropriate activities; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide copies
17 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.